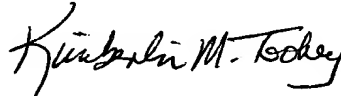


Applicants submit that a search of the polynucleotide claims would clearly provide useful information for the polypeptide claims. This is because the genetic code is known. Moreover, in many if not most publications, where a published nucleotide sequence is an open reading frame, the authors also include, as a matter of routine, the deduced amino acid sequence. Thus, the searches for polynucleotides and polypeptides would clearly be overlapping.

Accordingly, as applied to Groups I and II, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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